

DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS

MAIN TRAIL — RUGGED — 6.5 miles. This loop trail begins at the Visitor Center and is well maintained, but does have a limited number of signs along the way. Average hiking time is three to four hours. Many visitors enjoy walking to Totem Rock, a large rock shelter that was used by Indians and early settlers. “Short cuts” back to the Center are available for those familiar with maps and hiking. There is also a “Birdwatching Spur” on the far north end of the peninsula.*

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRATION TRAIL — MODERATE — 2 miles. A loop trail beginning at the Visitors Center. Illustrates habitat requirements of wildlife as well as wildlife management techniques used on the property. Demonstrations include food plots, protective cover planting, controlled burning and much more. A booklet keyed to numbered posts is available for this self-guided interpretive trail.*

GARDEN ROCK LOOP TRAIL — MODERATE A short loop trail begins just across from the Visitor Center’s front door. If your time is limited and rock overhangs, ferns and pines sound inviting, try this trail. The trail can be hiked in thirty to forty-five minutes, but is hilly.*

Interpreter-Conducted Walks — Join us for scheduled walks and hikes that may last thirty minutes or three hours. These walks are an enjoyable way to see the Reservoir, learn about nature and history, and meet other people.

**Because of size limitation, locations are marked but actual trails are not shown on this map. Trails listed above are in the Newton-Stewart S.R.A. Trail brochures are available at the Visitor Center.*

PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS!

Please let wild animals remain wild. Feeding deer is prohibited. Feeding of wild animals can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on handouts become a nuisance to visitors and a danger to themselves. Please lock up all food and coolers inside cars or campers. Roll car windows up tightly.

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

BEACH — Swimming is available during open hours Memorial Day through Labor Day. A modern bathhouse provides showers, dressing facilities, restrooms, and food concessions.

BOAT RAMPS — Nine launch ramps are located at various points around the lake. Two major ramps are located within the Newton-Stewart Recreation Area.

CAMPING — Campsites types include 450 - Class A (modern sites) with asphalt surfaced pads, electricity, water, flush toilets, hot water and showers, a camp store, fish cleaning station and trailer dump station; and 96 Class C (primitive sites). A Fisherman Campground designed primarily to serve fishermen and primitive campers. Water is available in the immediate area with pit toilets located at convenient spots. A launch ramp is also located within the campground. Occupancy limited to two (2) weeks. Campsites available for reservation on the three major summer holidays.

FISHING — The lake has been heavily stocked with bass, bluegill, catfish, redear, crappie, and walleye. A state license is required and available at lake office.

HUNTING — Woodland game and waterfowl are available for the avid hunter during open seasons. Deer and squirrel are abundant in the area. All hunters are required to register at a hunter check-in station. ★ Bonus County Antlerless Permits are not allowed on property west of SR 145 and north of 164, East of 545/Cuzco Road.

Safety Zone—Visitors Center Safety Zone is open to Hunting December 1 until May 15th and the Campground Safety Zones are open to hunting December 1 until March 1.

INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE — Explore the world of natural resources while enjoying interpretive, recreational and cultural arts programs at all reservoir properties.

MARINA — Within the Newton-Stewart Recreation Area, seasonal mooring is available for 250 boats on buoys and 100 in slips. Additional services include on-water fuel, boat pump-out, modern restrooms, and food concessions. An additional marina at the Lick Fork Recreation Area offers mooring and similar services.

PICNIC AREAS — Picnicking is available in a number of areas with most containing tables, grills, toilet facilities, and shelter. Handicapped accessible sites are also available.

THIS IS YOUR LAKE

All visitors are expected to observe the following rules which are designed to fulfill the purposes for which the state operates reservoir properties, namely, to manage these areas for the enhancement of wildlife and for the use and enjoyment of the people.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- A person must not conduct or participate in a fishing tournament on a reservoir property administered by the division of state parks and reservoirs except under a license.
- A person must not launch, dock, or moor a watercraft or another floating device, except for approved periods and at sites designated by the department for those purposes. A watercraft shall not be left unattended in a courtesy dock.
- Any firearm, BB gun, air gun, CO₂ gun, bow and arrow must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle except in accordance with the terms of a one (1) day hunting permit and record card obtained from a hunter sign-in station and possessed by the person in the field for a specified date.
- A person who possesses a pet must keep the animal caged or on a leash no more than six feet and attended at all times.
- There shall be no vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. Youth groups must be under adult supervision.
- Fires shall be built only in places provided.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day use areas. Overnight guests must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Motorists will observe speed limits as posted, and park in designated areas. 30 m.p.h. maximum.
- A person must not possess or consume an alcoholic beverage at a swimming beach.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Report lost or found articles to the property office.
- Feeding of wildlife is prohibited.
- Use of metal detectors is prohibited.

For a complete list of rules and regulations inquire at property office.

SHELTERS — Reservations for shelters; inquire at property office.

VISITOR CENTER — A unique solar heated building, located in the Newton-Stewart Recreation Area is open daily for tours and activities. The interior contains nature displays related to the property, seating for programs, and a bird observation room. A small outside stage and amphitheatre are used for programs during the summer months.



Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your reservoir clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

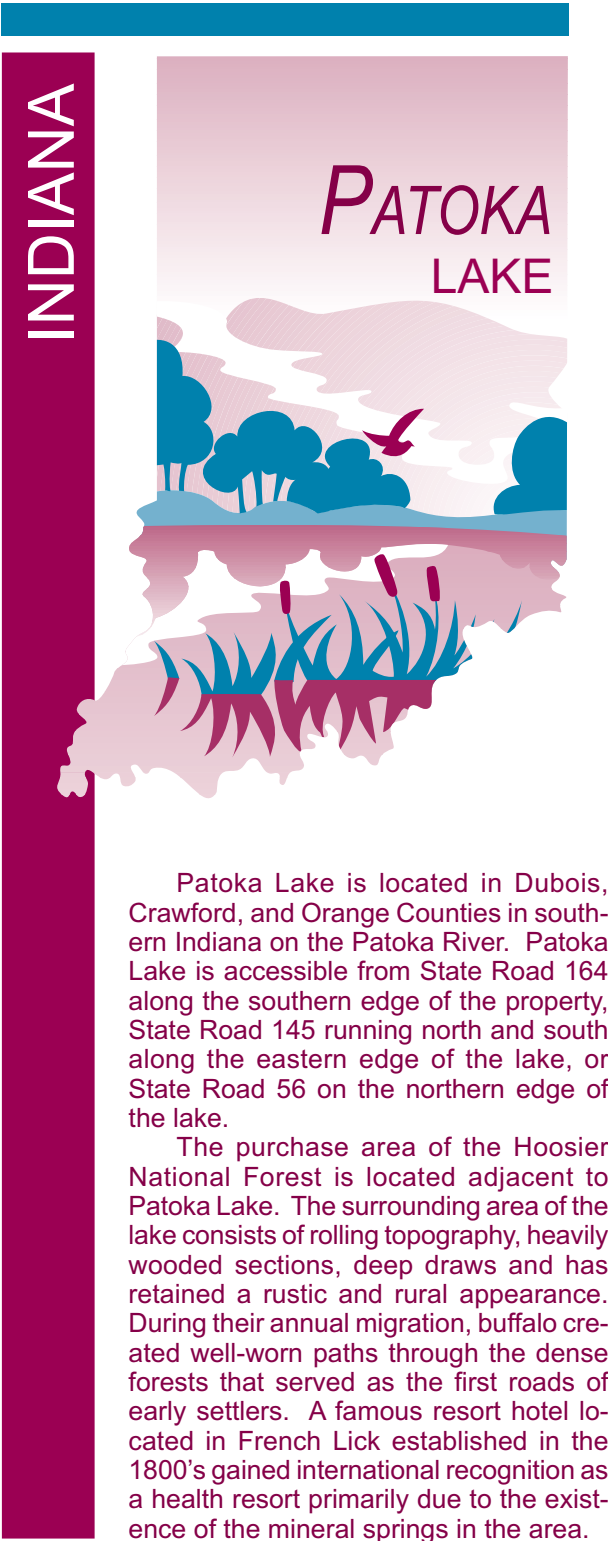
Write: Patoka Lake
3084 North Dillard Road
Birdseye, IN 47513
Call: (812) 685-2464

DNR
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the lake. List of fees available in the lake office.

The Programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington Street, Room W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.



Patoka Lake is located in Dubois, Crawford, and Orange Counties in southern Indiana on the Patoka River. Patoka Lake is accessible from State Road 164 along the southern edge of the property, State Road 145 running north and south along the eastern edge of the lake, or State Road 56 on the northern edge of the lake.

The purchase area of the Hoosier National Forest is located adjacent to Patoka Lake. The surrounding area of the lake consists of rolling topography, heavily wooded sections, deep draws and has retained a rustic and rural appearance. During their annual migration, buffalo created well-worn paths through the dense forests that served as the first roads of early settlers. A famous resort hotel located in French Lick established in the 1800’s gained international recognition as a health resort primarily due to the existence of the mineral springs in the area.

Numerous caves of significance lie to the east of Patoka Lake. The scenic rock outcroppings, acres of timber land, and rich history of this area provide an outstanding place for sightseeing and recreation.

PURPOSE AND PROJECT HISTORY

Patoka Lake, the second largest reservoir in Indiana is operated for flood control and water supply and provides general recreation and fish and wildlife opportunities. The lake forms an integral unit of the Ohio River Basin in the comprehensive plan and serves to reduce flood stages downstream from the dam. Patoka was developed in accordance with a long range program and provides for a beneficial use of reservoir lands, fish and wildlife resources, and an opportunity for outdoor activities associated with large bodies of water

Patoka Lake was authorized by the Flood Control Act of October 27, 1965. Construction began in July 1972 with the dam completed in January 1979 and initial recreational facilities completed in December 1980.

TOTEM ROCK GEOLOGY

As you leave the Visitor Center on the main trail, you will be walking over a ridge of sandstone which some say was laid down 325 million years ago by a huge river from the northeast which dumped its load of sand and silt into a shallow tropical sea. (You drove between outcroppings of this Wickliffe Formation as you approached the Visitor Center.) Now, as the trail begins to lead you along a more northerly ridge system, the Wickliffe Formation abruptly ends, and a younger sandstone, the Mansfield, takes over. This Pennsylvanian aged sandstone was laid down by a river when dragonflies with nearly 3 feet wingspans and salamanders 15 feet long inhabited the lush fern forests of the time. The best exposure of Mansfield sandstone along our trail system is Totem Rock, which exhibits the pocked honeycomb weathering typical of most sandstones. It also displays broad cross-bedding, which appears as intersecting “wood grain” patterns in the stones. Iron and manganese stain the rock red and brown, while a white crust of calcium sulfate (gypsum), potassium nitrate (saltpeter), and possibly epsom salts occurs on the rock face.